

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated March 6, 2003, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6-9 and 14-17 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,453,353 (Win et al.). Claims 2-5 and 10-13 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Win et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,519,587 (Blinn et al.).

By the present response, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 to further clarify the invention. Claims 1-17 remain pending in the present application.

35 USC §102 rejections

Claims 1, 6-9 and 14-17 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Win et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Win et al discloses role-based navigation of information resources where a single secure sign-on gives a user access to authorized Web resources, based on the user's role in the organization that controls the Web resources. The information resources are stored on a protected Web server. A user of a client or browser logs in to the system. A runtime module on the protected server receives the login request and intercepts all other request by the client to use a resource. The runtime module connects to an access server that can determine whether a particular user is authentic and which resources the user is authorized to access. User information is associated with roles and functional groups of an organization to which the user belongs; the roles are associated with access privileges. The user is presented with a customized Web page showing only those resources that the user may access.

Regarding claims 1 and 9, Applicants submit that Win et al. does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of these claims of, inter alia, a plurality of database apparatuses that include: means for storing dispersed data; and means for storing a dispersed-data access privilege, said dispersed-data access privilege being an access privilege to the dispersed data, and correlating dispersed-data identification information for identifying a user or user processing apparatus permitted to access the dispersed data and a dispersed-data operating right indicative of operation contents by which the user or the user processing apparatus indicated by said dispersed-data identification information are permitted to operate the dispersed data, or a multi-database processing apparatus includes: means for receiving a plurality of the dispersed data from said plurality of database apparatuses based on a request for integrating data from said user processing apparatus, means for storing an integrated-data access privilege, said integrated-data access privilege being an access privilege to the integrated data, and correlating integrated-data identification information for identifying a user or user processing apparatus permitted to access the integrated data and an integrated-data operating right indicative of operation contents by which the user or user processing apparatus indicated by said integrated-data identification information are permitted to operate the integrated data, means for receiving an access request, said access request being an access request for operating the integrated data from said user processing apparatus, and containing user identification information for identifying a user of the user processing apparatus concerned or the user processing apparatus concerned, wherein the dispersed-data access privilege and the integrated-data access privilege are handled independently from each other.

Initially, Applicants point out that Applicants' dispersed-data storing means is

DBMS (database managing systems), while Win et al. (col. 2, lines 44-45) discloses

a Web server. Moreover, Applicants' dispersed-data access privilege storing

means stores an access privilege per se for an access privilege of a stored data.

The Examiner asserts that this limitation is disclosed in Win et al. at col. 2, lines 54-

56. However, this merely discloses a means to communicate with clients. Win et

al.'s web page contains links to only those resources that the user is authorized to

access, based on the user's role within an enterprise that controls the resources.

The Examiner further asserts that Win et al. discloses Applicants' claimed

dispersed-data operating right at col. 2, lines 57-62. However, this is user's attribute

information in an organization such as an enterprise. This is not dispersed-data

access privilege being an access privilege to the dispersed data, and correlating

dispersed-data identification information for identifying a user or user processing

apparatus permitted to access the dispersed data and a dispersed-data operating

right indicative of operation contents by which the user or the user processing

apparatus indicated by said dispersed-data identification information are permitted to

operate the dispersed data, as recited in the claims of the present application.

The Examiner asserts that Win et al. discloses Applicants' claimed multi-

database processing apparatus at col. 5, lines 1-11 and 21-32 and Registry

Repository 110 (Fig.1)). However, these portions of Win et al. merely disclose a

browser or client being coupled by a communication link to a network, and access

rules by defining roles of users in an organization. This is not means for receiving a

plurality of dispersed data from a plurality of database apparatuses based on a

request for integrating data from said user processing apparatus, as recited in the

1 claims of the present application. Win et al.'s invention is not configured to receive a
2 request from another apparatus and integrate data requested.

3 Further, Win et al.'s registry repository stores an access privilege to dispersed
4 data which previously exists (110 in Fig.1). This is not means for integrating a
5 plurality of received dispersed data to generate integrated data dynamically and
6 means for storing an integrated-data access privilege, as recited in the claims of the
7 present application.

8 Moreover, Win et al. discloses at col. 5, lines 22-32 that the system 2 enables
9 administrators to implement access rules by defining roles that users play. This is
10 not means for receiving an access request from a user processing apparatus, the
11 access request being an access request for operating integrated data, and
12 containing user identification information for identifying a user of the user processing
13 apparatus concerned or the user processing apparatus concerned, as recited in the
14 claims of the present application.

15 In addition, Win et al. does not disclose or suggest a plurality of database
16 apparatuses that include means for storing a dispersed-data access privilege or a
17 multi-database processing apparatus including means for storing an integrated-data
✓ 18 access privilege, where the dispersed-data access privilege and the integrated-data
19 access privilege are handled independently from each other, as recited in the claims
20 of the present application.

21 Applicants further assert, as has been shown, that none of the limitations in
22 the claims of the present application, that the Examiner admits are not disclosed in
23 the cited Win et al. reference, are inherent in Win et al. Win et al. discloses to
24 generate integrated data that can be disclosed to users in accordance with an

1 ~~25~~ access privilege to dispersed data. However, there is no access privilege to
2 integrated data per se. That is, Win's access privilege is not present for integrated
3 data. Further, if Win's invention is applied to the above-mentioned environment,
4 Win's invention could not perform management of access privilege in an
5 organization managing integrated data independently because Win's system does
6 not provide an access privilege unique to integrated data, as recited in the claims of
7 the present application.

8 Regarding claims 6-8 and 14-17, Applicants submit that these claims are
9 dependent on one of independent claims 1 and 9 and, therefore, are patentable at
10 least for the same reasons noted regarding these independent claims. For example,
11 the Examiner asserts that Win et al. discloses limiting the operation indicated by the
12 access request at col. 4, lines 38-40. However, this portion of Win et al. merely
13 discloses that the foregoing components cooperate to control access to resources
14 (dispersed data) stored on one or more protected servers. However, Applicants'
15 control means does not cooperate with other components during access control, but
16 refers to an access privilege to integrated data for judging.

17 Accordingly, Applicants submit that Win et al. does not disclose or suggest
18 the limitations in the combination of each of claims 1, 6-9 and 14-17 of the present
19 application. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn and
20 that these claims be allowed.

21 35 USC §103 rejections

22 Claims 2-5 and 10-13 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being
23 unpatentable over Win et al. in view of Blinn et al. Applicants respectfully traverse
24 these rejections.

1 Blinn et al. discloses a database query system and method that includes an
2 information retrieval system having a server and a plurality of clients. The server
3 has access to one or more data storage media on which the server maintains a
4 database. The database has a plurality of records that can be searched based on
5 key values. The server maintains a page definition table in addition to the database.
6 The page definition table has a plurality of entries, each indicating pairs of key
7 values. To perform an information search, a client submits a search value to the
8 server. The server responds by identifying an entry from the page definition table
9 that corresponds to the search value. The server then identifies a set of database
10 records whose key values are bounded by the pair of key values of the identified
11 entry. Data from these database records are returned as search results to the client.

12 Applicants submit that claims 2-5 and 10-13 are dependent on one of
13 independent claims 1 and 9 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same
14 reasons noted previously regarding these independent claims. Applicants submit
15 that Blinn et al. does not overcome the substantial defects noted previously
16 regarding Win et al. Accordingly, Applicants submit that neither Win et al. nor Blinn
17 et al., taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest or render obvious
18 the limitations in the combination of each of claims 2-5 and 10-13 of the present
19 application. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn and
20 that these claims be allowed.

21 In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully
22 submit that claims 1-17 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early
23 allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing case No. 500.39846X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version with markings to show changes made

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Amended) A multi-database system in which a plurality of database apparatuses each storing data, a multi-database processing apparatus for performing an integration processing to the data stored in said plurality of database apparatuses, and a user processing apparatus for receiving the integration-processed data from said multi-database processing apparatus are connected mutually through a network,

wherein

each of said plurality of database apparatuses includes:

means for storing dispersed data; and

means for storing a dispersed-data access privilege, said dispersed-data access privilege being an access privilege to the dispersed data, and [making connection with] correlating dispersed-data identification information for identifying a user or user processing apparatus permitted to access the dispersed data and a dispersed-data operating right indicative of operation contents by which the user or the user processing apparatus indicated by said dispersed-data identification information are permitted to operate the dispersed data, and

said multi-database processing apparatus includes:

means for receiving a plurality of the dispersed data from said plurality of database apparatuses based on a request for integrating data from said user processing apparatus;

means for integrating said plurality of received dispersed data to generate

integrated data dynamically;

means for storing an integrated-data access privilege, said integrated-data access privilege being an access privilege to the integrated data, and [making connection with] correlating integrated-data identification information for identifying a user or user processing apparatus permitted to access the integrated data and an integrated-data operating right indicative of operation contents by which the user or user processing apparatus indicated by said integrated-data identification information are permitted to operate the integrated data;

means for receiving an access request, said access request being an access request for operating the integrated data from said user processing apparatus, and containing user identification information for identifying a user of the user processing apparatus concerned or the user processing apparatus concerned; and

means for controlling operation indicated by said access request and respectively applied to said plurality of dispersed data constituting the integrated data by using said dispersed-data access privilege and said integrated-data access privilege,

wherein the dispersed-data access privilege and the integrated-data access privilege are handled independently from each other.

9. (Amended) A multi-database processing system connected to a plurality of database apparatuses each storing data, and a plurality of user apparatuses, and for integrating the data stored in said plurality of database apparatuses, comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of dispersed data from said plurality of database apparatuses based on a request for integrating data from said user

processing apparatus;

means for receiving a dispersed-data access privilege from each of said plurality of database apparatuses, said dispersed-data access privilege being an access privilege to the dispersed data, and [making connection with] correlating dispersed-data identification information for identifying a user or user processing apparatus permitted to access the dispersed data and a dispersed-data operating right indicative of operation contents by which the user or user processing apparatus indicated by said dispersed-data identification information are permitted to operate the dispersed data;

means for performing an integration processing to a plurality of received dispersed data to generate integrated data dynamically;

means for storing an integrated-data access privilege, said integrated-data access privilege making the connection with integrated-data identification information for identifying a user or user processing apparatus permitted to access the integrated data and an integrated-data operating right indicative of operation contents by which the user or user processing apparatus indicated by said integrated-data identification information are permitted to operate the integrated data;

means for receiving an access request from said user processing apparatus, said access request being an access request for operating said integrated data, and containing user identification information for identifying a user of the user processing apparatus concerned or the user processing apparatus concerned;

and

means for controlling operation indicated by said access request and

respectively applied to said plurality of dispersed data constituting the integrated data, by using said dispersed-data access privilege and said integrated-data access privilege,

wherein the dispersed-data access privilege and the integrated-data access privilege are handled independently from each other.